

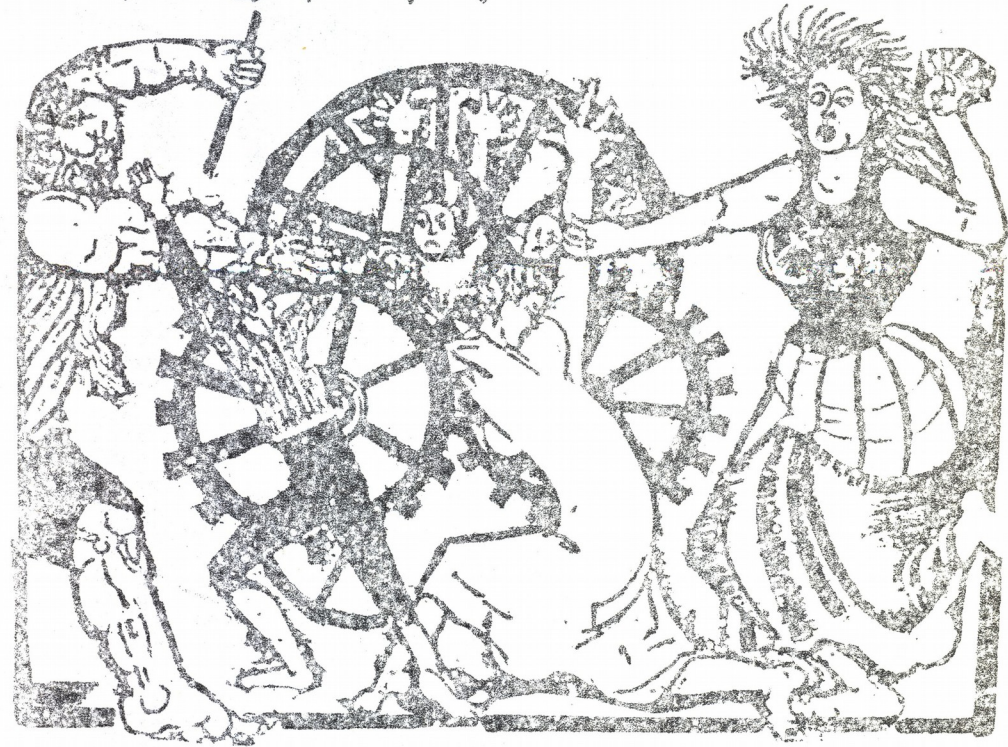
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NO CHOICE

#10

- THE FACTS OF LIFE FOR THE WORKING CLASS, ~~1988~~ ~~CRIMINAL~~ MILITARISM IN CAMBRIDGE, C.N.T.... AND MUCH MORE IN CAMBRIDGE'S ALTERNATIVE PAPER

WORK —



MILLIONS TRAPPED IN 8 HOUR HORROR!



We said in NO CHOICE no.9 that we felt that this year was going to be an important one (Cruise missiles coming and all that). Because of this it is vital that we all start to think—really think, to communicate our ideas, and to listen to what other people think. Those of us who produce No Choice have ideas which we try(!) to get over: please think about what we're saying, discuss it with others, agree with us, disagree—work out what YOU think (remember: sitting on the fence can be painful!).

We want to hear your ideas.

Our address is:

NO CHOICE,
c/o Cambridge Free Press,
25 Gwydir st.,
Cambridge.

P.S. If the printing of this magazine offends your aesthetic sensibility—like you can't read it—you could do worse than send us some cash, and we'll get it done nicely. The choice is yours!



|| THE MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX IN CAMBRIDGE ||

In the last issue of NO CHOICE we revealed the part that Marshalls of Cambridge played, during the Falklands War; since then we have been looking further at Marshalls and at the other local companies and especially at the University of Cambridge, who received during 1981/82, \$593,602 from both the US and the UK. The money spent on military research at the University involves nearly all the University Departments, and covers a variety of military uses, including explosives, prediction of missile trajectories and fallout. The University is, however, only a single link in the chain. Others are listed below, with a list of names of the parasites that make themselves rich out of the deaths and destruction of others. We make no apologies.

MARSHALLS OF CAMBRIDGE

Marshalls Vehical Division is the largest manufacturer of military vehical bodies in the UK.; they specialise in modification work, for example, they modified the Airportable (4x4) 564kg Landrover to mount a 106mm M40 Recoilless rifle for an unknown foreign army (though it is known at the moment, that Saudia Arabia and the Sudan with the possibility of Libya are using them). Their latest contract is the modification of 6 Tri-Stars into fuel tankers and freighter carriers for the RAF.

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Another company that has made money out of war, is Cambridge Electronic Industries (Botanic House, 100 Hills Rd. Tel. 314747). They received an MOD contract for sonar equipment, connectors and detection gear. CEI is the parent company of various electronic and engineering firms all over the country, including Cathodeon of Cambridge (whom also we have heard are up to no good, but we have'nt found out exactly what - as yet).

DIRECTORS

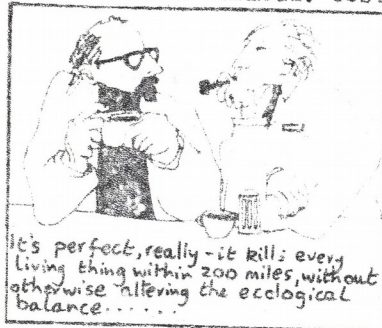
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CEI is a subsidiary of Phillips, and so too are Pyes. They are notorious for supporting oppressive regimes - for example they made radios and close-circuit TV, for Idi Amins police, and also for the Shah of Iran's police (who kept on breaking them, because they used the unbreakable aeriels as truncheons). Two of Pye Telecom's mob-

DIRECTORS

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Analitical Instruments of Pampisford design and make 'robot' machines for bomb disposal and mine detection. Though they appear to be saving soldiers lives, they are still reaping profit from war and conflict. Ciba-Geigy of Duxford and Torvac of Histon are also a part of the War Machine. As stated before, more than half a million pounds was given by both the British and American governments for Military research in the University of Cambridge. For example, in the Engineering Dept. Contract No. 4770 (MOD), 'Study of species and reactions in pyrotechnic flames', really means that they developed the detonation mechanism for the Cheveline warhead. Cost - £11,944, out of MOD funds (taxpayers?).



IF YOU HAVE ANY
INFORMATION ABOUT
ANY OF THESE COMPANIES
OR ANY WE HAVEN'T
MENTIONED, OR ABOUT
RESEARCH IN THE UNIVERSITY
PLEASE LET US KNOW.

THE NEXT ISSUE OF NO CHOICE IS
GOING TO BE A SPECIAL ANTI-MILITARISM
ISSUE - WE WILL BE EXPANDING WHAT
WE'VE REVEALED HERE, AND WE'LL BE
LOOKING AT OTHER AREAS OF MILITARISM.
WE MUST FIND OUT ABOUT THE WAR
MACHINE, FOR ONLY THEN CAN WE FIGHT
IT.



FIGHT WAR NOT WARS
DESTROY POWER NOT PEOPLE

To Bill Wells, I would say :-

You cannot be an anarchist and not support feminism. How can you be an anarchist and not be enraged by the oppression of one half of the population (women) by the other half (men)? Because Margaret Thatcher is a woman does not mean that working class men are dominated by women - it means that a woman can adopt male values very successfully and no more.

The Greenham Common Peace Camp and the actions there are women's actions because we feel that it is time that we showed our opposition, and our strength as women, to the nuclear menace that the male-dominated governments, military establishments, and 'society' is trying to force on us. Women are doubly oppressed, we have all the oppression of people by government, and we have oppression, as women, by men to contend with too.

If Bill is seriously concerned about the nuclear threat, then why doesn't he organise an action himself? There are plenty of other bases (inc. Molesworth), and nuclear power stations, where anyone male or female, with energy to organise opposition, is welcome.

Why does he want to go to Greenham? Doesn't he believe that women are strong enough to protest without him? It is like saying that working class people cannot get a strike together without some middle-class intellectuals to help them. It is also SEXIST.

He says that there is something drastically wrong with the feminist movement, from reading the letter this would appear to be chiefly that some us want to organise separately from men, and when we read remarks such as "If I as an anarchist, feel that the issue involves me, then I shall go on that demo and do what I feel needs to be done on that demo". Then is it any wonder? If some women have lived in very uncomfortable conditions for over a year at Greenham and are totally committed to peaceful protest, how can we feel confident about having people around who quite blatantly say that they will do whatever they want to do, (and by implication, fuck what the majority of us are trying to do)?

If Bill was really committed to freedom, then I say that he should respect that Greenham is a women's space, respect our struggle to throw off our double oppression in whatever way we see fit, and even support our struggle.

There's plenty of space for him to go to demo's and do what he wants to do, there's no need for conflict at all, the system is quite big enough for us all to fight it, and remember there's NO REVOLUTION WITHOUT SEXUAL REVOLUTION !

Worth reading; (ask at Grapevine)

* Daniel Guerin: Anarchism and Marxism. (50p)

Anthony Barnett: Iron Britannia: Why Parliament waged its Falklands War (£2-95)

* No Frontiers - Anarchist International Review. (10p)

† Colin Ward: Anarchy in Action (£1-50)

* London Workers Group Bulletin (20p)

Labour Focus on Eastern Europe (price varies)

* Available from No Choice.

† In the Libertarian Library.



THE FACTS OF LIFE

FOR THE WORKING CLASS

THE FACTS OF LIFE FOR MOST WORKING PEOPLE ARE BORING AT BEST, AND MISERY AT WORST. THIS GRIM REALITY IS CAUSED SOLELY BY THE SORT OF SOCIETY WE LIVE IN. WE SHALL DESCRIBE WHAT IS SO ROTTEN ABOUT IT, AND WHY.

We shall avoid using words like socialism, communism, anarchism, or any other 'ism', for they just add to the confusion that working people already feel, since they have almost as many meanings as there are people who use them. For example, one of the parties who run this crappy system calls itself socialist, as did Hitler and his friends - Lenin, Trotsky, Stalin, called themselves communist, as do those who follow in blood-stained footsteps.

We need to run our lives ourselves.

Obviously we don't do this. Some of us don't seem to want to. We must learn not only to want to, but to see that we are quite capable of doing so.

STILL BOSSSED AROUND

In every country in the world the vast majority of people have no control whatsoever over the decisions that most deeply affect their lives. Of those who are considered employable, an ever-decreasing number are regularly. Yet these people can only sell their labour, while the middle-class minority, who own and/or control everything - from TV, newspapers, motor-car industries... to football and 'space invaders' - they accumulate wealth, make the laws, and use parliament, courts, schools, police, media, and armed forces to preserve and strengthen their privileged positions, ensuring that working people remain the dominated class.

During the past century, the living standards of working people have, in many countries, improved. But their position in society has not changed. They are still bossed around at school, at work, at the dole... Nowhere in the world has the coming to power of parties claiming to represent the working class really changed this situation.

Nor can, or will, any political party bring about the sort of society we so urgently need. The reason for this is that all political parties are organised in one way - hierarchically. By that we mean a graded, ranked, pyramid-like structure, where everyone is a master to those below, and a lackey to those above. Everything in this society is organised in this way - schools, police, industry... you name it and it's organised hierarchically.

A MYTH

This way of running things is so ingrained in people's thinking that it is hardly ever questioned. That it is the only way is a MYTH. It is the only way to ensure middle-class dominance - that's why the myth is rammed home at every opportunity. You can be sure that as soon as we begin to realise that the hierarchical structure is the main thing limiting our freedom, they will do everything in their power to try and silence us, and to show that our ideas are utopian and totally unworkable.

The trade unions - even the Labour Party - started out to change all this. But they adopted the same organisational structure as the class that dominated them (As do all the other so-called parties of the working-class - Communist, Socialist Workers... etc.) So why wonder when they become the pawns of the class they set out to overthrow? In fact this society can no longer work without them: The unions act as middle-men, wholesalers, in the labour market. The political parties use the problems, struggles and aspirations of the working-class for their own ends.

This rotting-away of working-class organisations has been a major cause of working-class apathy. Those who still say that unions and parties can be 'changed', can

be 'captured', through the Benns, Heffers, Scargills etc, can be used to bring about the liberation of the working-class, must now be seen as either fools or self-interested manipulators, and must be exposed at every opportunity. Those who seem to oppose our enemies are not necessarily our friends.

WE DON'T NEED LEADERS

We're not saying 'elect better leaders' or 'make the unions/Labour Party more democratic', nor 'create new ones' - the leaders, acting in their own interests, will drop us in the shit as they have always done. WE OURSELVES must decide on the objectives of our struggle, both at work and outside of it, and the control and organisation must at all times remain in our hands. (Of course some people play more 'leading' roles than others - but strictly under our control).

The actions which we must support and be involved in can only be those which increase our confidence, our idea of self-management, our initiative, our solidarity, our belief in social and political equality, and whatever helps us to see things as they really are.

We must totally avoid and oppose any action which strengthens our submission to so-called authority, or our apathy, our pessimism, our belief that those 'above' us know best. We must avoid any reliance on others to do things for us, which allows us to be easily manipulated.

We don't get worked-up about elections, the Common Market, the state of the pound, and so on. Involvement in the problems of our middle-class rulers isn't merely no help to us, the ruled, it also distracts us from, and confuses us about our real problems. Sure, we can't totally ignore these things (The media won't let us anyway) because they are a part of reality - but we must avoid seeing them as having any significance to our aim of running our own lives ourselves.

We must do everything that we can to break down the wall that imprisons us - organising groups (however small) where we live, where we work, where we sign on, where we're 'educated'... We can use music, magazines, leaflets, graffiti, posters... Just talk to people.

We must expose the dishonesty of all those of the 'left' who talk most about the ability of the working class to create a new and better society, yet have the least confidence in our ability to do so without them as our leaders. The reason for this is not only that most of them are middle-class. It's also because middle-class ideas and 'culture' are more widespread than even they are aware of, having, in fact, deeply saturated and affected their thinking. Marx was wrong about many things, but his statement that "the ruling ideas of each age are the ideas of its ruling class" is more true than even Marx anticipated. Therefore these 'lefts' are part of the problem, not of the solution.

No ruling class has ^{ever} given up its power without a fight, and our present rulers will be no exception. Power will only be taken from them when working-class people know that it must be done, and why it must be done. We are some way from that condition at the moment(!), for there are enormous obstacles to be overcome. We have no means of communication - no newspapers, no radio, no TV... As a class we are disunited, confused, unaware, lacking the knowledge and the confidence that we can run society 1000 times better than those few now running things for themselves at our expense.

WE WANT A TOTALLY DIFFERENT

We want a world where no one gains from another's loss, where we all have a say in how things are run - where production is for human need, not profit.

The desire to run our own lives is in our bones. It is the real and highest form of human nature. Despite all the authoritarian conditioning, the distortions, the lies, the confusion spread by the media, much of what we've said is already known by many working people - albeit intuitively. (At the recent by-election in Peckham - a solidly working-class area - nearly two-thirds of those eligible to vote didn't go near a polling station.)

CNT TODAY

Channel 4's recent documentary series on the Spanish Civil War has brought to attention again the CNT (Confederacion Nacional del Trabajo), Spain's anarcho-syndicalist union. In 1936 the mass movement of the CNT provided the basis for the organisation of a social revolution - hundreds of villages in Aragon and other regions were collectivised and in Barcelona public transport, water, electrical and other public services and some industries were brought under workers' control.

Today the CNT is still active in Spain - though much reduced in size and strength after almost 40 years of illegality under Franco and the growth of reformist socialism. Nevertheless, the CNT remains as an almost unique example of anarcho-syndicalism in practice. The following are extracts from an interview in 'Freedom' with Ramon Calopa, Information Secretary of the Catalan Regional Committee of the CNT.

"We are a confederation of unions, that operates according to the principles of anarcho-syndicalism. For example, all decisions are made from the base upwards. The base consists of the individual unions, which are made up of workers of the same industry in a given geographical area. Each union is autonomous; it can choose, for instance, whether to elect officials or whether to delegate the responsibilities of treasurer, secretary, book-keeper on a day-to-day basis.

"What's really needed is a revitalised libertarian movement, working both outside and within the CNT. That was the role of the FAI (Iberian Anarchist Federation) in the old days...As anarchists we don't limit ourselves to defending the working class materially. We have the longer term vision of the struggle for maximum well-being: a social transformation. So in our cultural events and meetings, at the libertarian study centres, we try to spread these ideas, and to make our membership more conscious. We see the CNT as a strategy in the process of social change, which will, of necessity, come in stages. We need the workers because of their numbers, because they can be an instrument to achieve change. We'll always need unions, since only self-organisation within the workplace can ensure that production continues during the first stages of social transformation, as happened in 1936.

"Actions - at the moment, strikes and demonstrations. We haven't the strength to mount violent actions, although we have been able to hold two general strikes in Barcelona, in '76/'77, when we had maybe half a million in the Plaza de Espana. We couldn't do that today, though we do have majority strength in certain firms - generally small or medium sized firms.

"We give less importance to wage demands - they're a mirage, when prices are going up all the time anyway. Work conditions are more real from our point of view. As for control over work, that's not worth thinking about under present conditions - what for? All the attempts that have been made to involve workers are just a form of co-option - make the workers even more like the bourgeoisie.

"Although it may seem strange, the CNT is something you have to feel more than understand. If it stays on an intellectual level, you don't get anywhere. That's the strength we have, we've always had: good militants who haven't even heard of Bakunin, but who are ready to die for the CNT."

... & tomorrow!

Announcing:

THE CAMBRIDGE LIBERTARIAN LIBRARY

We have decided to make a file of all the books, pamphlets etc. that the various members of the Cambridge Anarchists possess, on Anarchism, political and social ideas and really anything that is not very likely to be on display in the Public Library. Eventually we would also like to file a list of magazine articles on various subjects. If you would like to join this scheme, tell us what books you have, what they're about and how good you think they are and we'll put them in the file (don't forget to send your address/phone number so that people can contact you). If you want to join, but can't be bothered to go through all your books, tell us and someone will come 'round and do it for you! It would also be useful if you could say what mags you receive, especially from far off lands.

If, on the other hand, you just want to borrow a book you think we might have or want information on a specific topic (e.g. What Anarchs think! The History of Anarchism in Britain or something on the Spanish Revolution) write and ask!

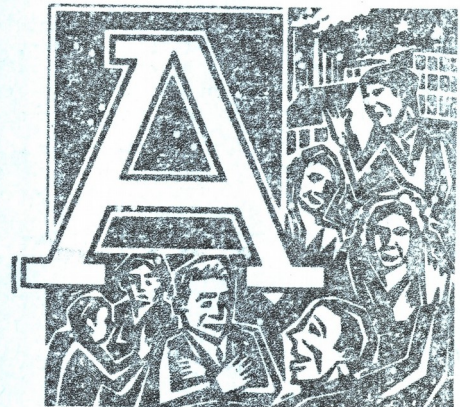
We intend that the Library file will be taken to meetings of the University/Town Anarchist group if you want to see exactly what we've got. These meetings are, at the moment every Monday @ 5.00 in the Peace Centre, off Jesus Lane (come along anyway, even if you don't want a book - they are open to everybody, whether they be a committed Anarchist or not), however the date, time or place may change quite soon. We'll let you know well in advance.

Once you have found your desired book/pamphlet you contact the owner, and it's up to them whether they ask for a deposit or not. So! as you see, it's as easy as that.

The address to write to is: LIBERTARIAN LIBRARY, Cambridge Anarchists c/o Cambridge Free Press, 25 Gwydir St. Cambridge.

GRAPEVINE *bookshop*

TUESDAY - CCAT by the Canteen 2-2.30
 - UNIVERSITY LEFT LUNCH
 Munby Room Kings 1-2.00
 WEDNESDAY - CCAT (Canteen) 12-2.30
 - WOMENS CENTRE 1-3.00
 - ARGYLE STREET CO-OP
 with Claimants Union
 11-6.00
 SURVIVAL LUNCH
 Bateman Rm. 1-2.00
 THURSDAY - BATHOUSE 12-5.30
 - STUDENT COMM. ACTION
 Queens Coll. 1-2.00
 FRIDAY - KINGS COLL. BAR 12-2.00
 THIRD WORLD FIRST LUNCH
 Queens Coll. 1-2.00
 SATURDAY - BATHOUSE 10.30- 5.00
 ALEX WOOD HALL 10.00-12.30



Be Realistic --
 Demand the Impossible.

FOR EVERYONE THAT'S GOT A TV (if you've got a spare one please write to me at box A), it must be refreshing to watch the new Channel 4, encouragingly described by Conservative MPs as broadcasting "bad language, political bias and many other undesirable qualities". If this means that we are going to be provided with a more realistic alternative to our middle class new readers giving a consistent right-centre viewpoint under the guise of 'balanced' and 'impartial' reporting, then it must be a welcome change.

A look at the facts behind the news on the established TV channels, shows many examples of bias clearly in favour of the controlling minority, and to the detriment of the mass of the population. For example, industrial disputes are invariably reported as a reasonable management dealing with excessive claims and unrealistic unionists. Economic problems are blamed on workers not working hard enough or going on strike, never on bad management or under investment by people in control. The reasons for this bias are obvious, because the programme directors are closer in nature to those people in control (the management, the bosses, politicians, civil-service bureaucrats, police and security services). Television itself is a form of control linked to the state and 'Independent' (sic) TV is also dictated to by the by managements of the big industrial and commercial interests, since it depends directly for finance on their advertising.

Having argued that, let's have a closer look at Channel 4. The original idea arose under a Labour government in the Annan report of 1977. The Annan report proposed what was basically a good idea, the creation of an 'Open Broadcasting Authority' as an alternative to the present BBC and IBA. Though it still retained a strong element of control the fourth channel would operate 'more as a publisher of programme material provided by others' and a significant proportion of its funding would be through educational grants and sponsoring. Through



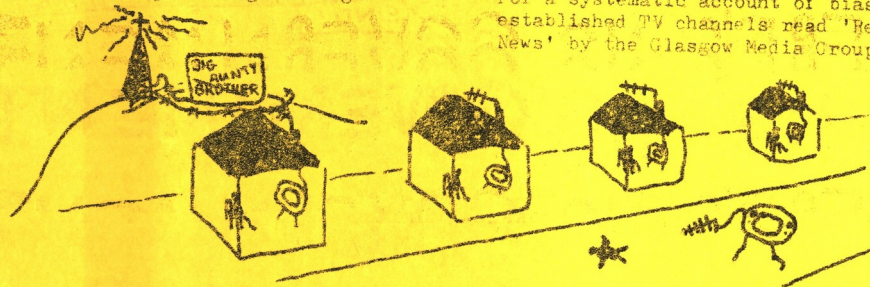
IRELAND TONIGHT
SOLDIER WAS SHOT BY
TERRORISTS, AND A
YOUNG GIRL DIED IN
AN INCIDENT INVOLVING
A PLASTIC BULLET.

typical Tory manipulation we now have a Channel 4 which retains some of these ideas but is part of the IBA, is funded directly and indirectly (through ITV1) by advertising and is therefore under the control of the advertisers. There is an obvious effort to be more broadly based and to cater for minority groups, but half an hour a week for trade unionists and a fortnightly programme for blacks only smacks of tokenism. When it was announced that Channel 4 intended to broadcast an hour long programme for homosexuals this was greeted with horror by the right wing establishment with papers like the Daily Telegraph and The Sun claiming that Channel 4 will only be of interest if you are "a women's liberationist, a homosexual, a member of an ethnic minority" or have left wing views. If you consider that 51% of the population are women, 1 in 10 are homosexual, 20% are in trade unions (half the working population), and 2 million belong to minority ethnic groups, then there's not a lot left to represent the 'moral majority'.

This is why it is so important that a station like Channel 4 be open to and controlled by the general public because it is the very same right wing establishment who control the IBA and own the companies which provide the advertising. It is about time we showed them that it is they who are in the minority and we who should control the stations we watch. So next time you watch 'Whatever You Want', just remember that the majority of programmes are 'whatever they want you to watch' and another sop thrown down by the right wing establishment does nothing to break their control.

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For a systematic account of bias in the established TV channels read 'Really Bad News' by the Glasgow Media Group.



HERE'S NO GOVERNMENT!



LIKE NO GOVERNMENT!

Published by the NO CHOICE collective:
Write to Box A, Grapevine Bookshop, Unit 5, 25, Gwydir St. Camb.

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